

**Forty four DARWEN – JUBILEE TOWER & SUNNYHURST.**

This Pennine hill walk, which is easy underfoot and not too long, provides some magnificent views. Pick a crystal clear day if you want to glimpse six English counties, a Principality and a Crown Dependency in a 270-degree view.

Catch the train from Eccles to Manchester Victoria. At Victoria catch a Blackburn/Clitheroe train and alight at Darwen.

Descend the station approach road passing the Railway Hotel. *You pass many civic buildings on both sides. Notice that in Darwen there is more ashlar than rough-hewn (rustic) stonework.*

At the Millstone Hotel (*Thwaites handpump*) cross the main road and go left in front of the war memorial. *This consists of a plinth in a small garden between to elegant domed offices. The memorial is to the fallen of The South African War of 1899-1902.*

Turn right up Belgrave Road. *Notice the impressive portico on the former church on your left.*

Keep going upwards. *India Mill chimney peeps over buildings on the left.*

After a steep climb you will see the entrance to Bold Venture Park on the right. Continue upwards with the park on your right. The park ends at a junction of rough roads and you get a glimpse of the Jubilee tower.

Take the left route, going ahead and then curving right towards the tower. The route now goes along the east side of the hill *with views to the right of the Yorkshire Dales, Pendle Hill, India Mill below, Bull Hill and Affetside.*

Curve to the left and up to the Jubilee Tower. *This was built to mark Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897.*

Now ascend the Jubilee Tower *because you've not yet climbed enough! It is twenty steps to the balcony, then forty to the cast iron staircase, and then seventeen to the lantern. Features of the spectacular views are pointed out on small plates around the sides of the small balcony.*

On leaving the tower head to the trig point and turn right to descend and cross straight over another path to go along top of a small ridge.

[OPTION: turn right at this cross roads to go back the way you came up and perhaps go through Bold venture Park.]

TO CONTINUE: Follow this path down to the Hamlet of Sunnyhurst. *Here opposite you there is a delightful little stone pub called the Sunnyhurst (Thwaites handpump beers, snacks, hot drinks, fire, open most of day and evening too!).*

Turn right facing the pub and go down onto Tockholes Road, and follow this road down until you cross over to Weaver's Row. At the end of this row a very short path takes you through trees onto another road.

Go left downhill and s bend to the right. Cross over the main road to go up the left side of The Millstone Hotel.

Go up the station approach road and then under the railway bridge to the right of the station. Then go immediately left up to the platform for the train back to Manchester Victoria.

CLASSIFICATION:

A MEDIUM LENGTH WALK. EASY  
UNDERFOOT BUT STEEP UP AND DOWN  
STRETCHES.  
ARCHITECTURE, COUNTRYSIDE,  
PANORAMIC VIEWS, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE,  
CAFES, COUNTRY PUB.  
RAIL FARE: category two.

Maps: OS 1:50 000 SHEET 103.